



Department of Justice

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ORLANDO ARMED CAREER CRIMINAL FACING UP TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

Orlando, Florida - A jury in U.S. District Court in Orlando, Florida, today found an Orlando man, Kendell Lee Starks, 32, guilty of a one-count indictment charging him with possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon. Starks faces a statutory minimum sentence of fifteen years up to life imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$250,000, up to five years' supervised release and a \$100 special monetary assessment. A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for March 4, 2008, before the Honorable Anne C. Conway, United States District Judge. Starks previously had been indicted by a federal grand jury on October 3, 2007.

According to the evidence presented at trial, members of the Orlando Police Department's Fugitive Investigative Unit arrested Starks on an outstanding felony warrant on March 28, 2007. Once Starks had been located, the officers saw him loading two luggage bags into a car driven by a female companion. When officers subsequently attempted to stop the car on the East-West Expressway, they saw Starks reaching under his seat. Searching the car after Starks' arrest, officers found a loaded revolver directly underneath Starks' seat; a semi-automatic pistol with a box of ammunition in the side pocket of one bag; and ten additional rounds of ammunition in the second bag. This

second bag also contained papers and medication in Starks' name. Starks, a previously convicted felon, is prohibited from possessing either firearms and ammunition under federal law.

The case represents the culmination of a cooperative effort between the United States Attorney's Office, the City of Orlando Police Department, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol , Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). This is another case prosecuted as a part the Crime Impact Team (VCIT) initiative - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from ATF. United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert E. Bodnar, Jr.